Expenditure on Maintenance

3609. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance and beautification of Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi and T.R.C. building;

(b) whether there is a seepage in the I.R. building, Telegraphmen room causing difficulties for the staff to even sit;

(c) if so, whether the Government like to take action against the contractor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the misuse of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) (i) Expenditure incurred on main building and adjoining building to CTO during 96-97 on water proofing is Rs. 2,93,215.

(ii) Expenditure incurred during 1995-96 on Renovation of Public Counter is Rs. 1,30,545.

(iii) Expenditure on Beautification is NIL.

(iv) There is no TRC building. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (not TRC) is housed in a portion of Khurshid Lal Bhavan. The expenditure incurred on Water Proofing is Rs. 60,000 and on beautification is Rs. 6,600. The total expenditure on maintenance of TEC portion of Khurshid Lal Bhavan in 96-97 is Rs. 3,59,600.

(b) There is no seepage in the IR building. There is minor seepage in Telegraphmen room. There is no inconvenience for Telegraphmen to sit since another room has been provided to them.

(c) Since see page has been noticed for the first time, the question of action against the contractor does not arise.

(d) No Sir, there is no misuse of funds.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

3610. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Uttar Pradesh which do not have their own buildings District-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct new buildings for this purpose District-wise;

(c) if so, the place where these buildings are proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

MMRD Act, 1957

3611. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's approval is sought under the Mines Mineral Regulation and Development Act, 1957 for granting a schedule mineral under Schedule-I of the Act;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government to delete Limestone and Bauxite from the Schedule-II list of the MMRD Act, 1957; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal for deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from Schedule I of the MM (R&D) Act, 1957, has been discussed in the meetings of the committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with the Secretaries of State Governments, Industry, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members to review the Mining Rules and procedures etc. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/ Mining Leases. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licences/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

Closure of Units of Panki Thermal Power Station

3612. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panki Thermal Power Station had to close down some of its generating units consequent upon administrative decision in regard to protection of environmental pollution;

(b) whether the Panki Thermal Power Station did not consider the consequences of lesser generation of electricity in the area;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps alongwith UPSEB to restore the generation and to take protective measures immediately; and